

**Congressional Roundup**

# House Bill Has Protest Curbs

Associated Press

The House Committee on Un-American Activities ignored opposition by the Johnson Administration and quickly approved yesterday a bill to set stiff criminal penalties on "overt acts" of antiwar groups.

The 7-0 vote came after less than one hour of discussion.

Spokesmen for the Justice, Commerce and Treasury Departments had testified against the bill after the committee spent four tumultuous days last week investigating the activities of the antiwar groups.

Chairman Edwin E. Willis (D-La.) told reporters that changes made by a subcommittee which held the hearings limit the bill to "overt acts" such as soliciting, collecting or sending blood and medical supplies to the Vietcong, or attempting to block troop trains.

The subcommittee eliminated a provision imposing penalties for advising, urging or counseling others to give or collect "money, property or anything for delivery" to the Vietcong.

Maximum penalties provided are a fine of \$20,000 and 20 years in prison.

A report that House leaders were seeking to keep the bill from the House floor was apparently squashed when Speaker John W. McCormack (D-Mass.), while saying he had not read the measure, strongly attacked the activities of the antiwar groups.

McCormack said "such actions go far beyond the right of dissent" and constitute "overt rights to aid the enemy."

Although the House—with all its seats up before the voters Nov. 8—is expected to give overwhelming support to the bill, it may languish in the Senate. There the Democratic and Republican leadership are considered unenthusiastic about it.